## Miterature.

THANKSGIVING. Once more the liberal year laughs out O'er richer stores than gems or wold Once more with harvest-song and shout is nature's bloodless triumph told. Our common mother rests and sings, Like fluth, among her garnered sheaves; Her lap is full of goodly things, Her brow is bright with autumn leaves. Who murmurs at his lot to-day?

Who scorns his native fruit and bloom Or sighs for dainties far away, Beside the bounteous board of home? Thank Heaven, instead, that Freedom's arm Can change a rocky soil to gold— That brave and generous lives can warm

A clime with northern ices cold.

And let these alters wreathed with flowers And piled with fruits, awake again Thanksgiving for the golden hours, The early and the latter rain! -John G. Whitteer.

THE OLD COUPLE. They sat in the sun together, Till the day was almost done And then, at its close, an angel Stepped over the threshold stone He folded their hands together ; He touched their eyelids with balm; And their last breath floated upward, Like the close of a solemn pealm Like a bridal pair they traversed

The unseen, mystical road, That leads to the Beautiful City, Whose Builder and Maker is God Perhaps, in that miracle country, They will give her lost youth back, And the flowers of a vanished spring-time Shall bloom in the spirit's track. One draught of the living waters Shall restore his manhood's prime And eternal years shall measure The love that outlives time.

But the shapes they left behind them-Made mered to us by the kisses We'll hide away in the meadow, When the sun is low in the west, Where the moonbeams cannot find them. Nor the wind disturb their rest

But we'll let no tell-tale tembstone, With its age and date, arise O'er the two who are old no longer-In their Father's House in the skies

## MARA: OR, THE GIRL WITHOUT REFERENCES.

She was called Mara; and we all of us have been given to a girl so bright, sweet, and tender. But Authur Halsey, who was ing peerless.

He would dilate upon her beauty, her gentleness, the winning power of her voice, with enthusiasts in describing a picture, or by connoisseurs in precious stones, who hold up a diamond in the sunlight, and ask you to adwho behave like this are generally great bores. preference for him, were, perhaps the only Naturally he had not been able to sell any, they knew, as if they suspected her of shopthings that saved us from experiencing for nor was he sure that he would consent to do lifting. might be made to him, could be set out on it with Mara for his companion.

Yet nobody could tell whence she came, nor what was her parentage; and she was destitute of that commonest buttress to reday at the small seaside town of Sandbeach, "Mr." as superfluous. had taken cheap lodgings, and had given out her name naively as Mara Child; only adding, on the inquiry of her landlady, that remarked Merry, whose character was, conshe was Miss, not Mrs. The same day she trary to the usual rule, not out of keeping ment, but not for a governoss's place." had gone to Butts's Circulating Library, with his name. "I even suspect that, since knew of any family in want of a governess.

ry catalogues.

not good enough to be worth a glance.

had failed to discover, but which were visi-

ble to him. When he reached the last, he

held it almost five minutes before his eyes:

then, like a good fellow that he was, with a

suffering, he exclaimed, "Poor little thing!

miserable secret in her young life which she

she need never have troubled any of them

immorality. Well, one day when she has

proclaim that he foresaw it all along. If

Butts was a simpleton of the discursive the inhabitants of the town, and had led him out of a drawer, and laid them before us brary, Sandbeach." up to a vague notion that Sandbeach belong. with a kind of expostulatory shrug. They a pastryface with a double chin, and proba- the sea by day and by moonlight, and dis- from the affections of both Clowes and Mer rial answer to the girl-stranger's question, as gray for sea, and brown for shingle. It was edges, were fastened on Mara; and, on hearshe stood at the counter of his well-stocked school-girl art,-not so bad as to be absurd.

"No: I have never held any situation," she Merry, Clowes, and I threw a look over said quietly.

"Then you have some one who will ans- of a cynic, even said something tart about wer for you,-speak to your abilities, I mean teaching girls to waste paper and colors incel of books just come from London. She going through them cursorily, began to pore ed to do a menial office),-"but this five was dressed in black, and were a very white over them one by one, with deep attention, pound note is yours; one of those gentlement collar and cuffs. It was a plain dress, but as if there were beauties in them which we

"No," she replied, with a shake of the head. "I am an orphan, and know of nobody who could give me a character."

Butts was both astonished and scandalized. "The price of a five-line advertisement in the Sandbeach Gazette is one-and-sixpence." Imagine a girl trying to hire herself out to said he suspiciously,--- half a crown for two insertions. The paper appears twice a ing rebuffed everywhere because there is a wack."

Mara drew out a little network purse, and wishes to conceal. Perhaps it is her mothhanded him half a soverign : "I think I will er's or her father's honor which she is enhave two insertions, please," she said. "You deavoring to cloak. But Butts there and can say I am twenty-five years old, and am his lady-patrons don't choose to perceive able to draw a little; but I do not play the that, if this pretty girl had vicious instincts,

Butts rang the coin on the counter; and, for a place or money. They ban her,—the finding it good, it grieved him to part with ladies by pursing up their lips when she so much as seven-and-sixpence change. "The crosses them, the chasts Butts by preaching subscription to the circulating library and her down from behind his counter, and musreading-room is half a crown a month," he ing as to whether he shall let hav beguile remarked in a half-conciliatory tone. "We her evenings by reading one of his books, take in the London magazines and The Times which she has paid for. Then she falls where you can read of people who want back upon these attempts to earn her bread; governesses. You have also the privilege of and Butts puts them in a drawer, vowing carrying away two books together to read at not to sell them, lest he should encourage

Mara said she would subscribe; then exhausted all the methods she knows for Butts asked her whether she needed station. keeping starvation away, she will find herery, to which she said no, but bought some self, thanks to Butts and his ladies, with a drawing-pencils and a mill-board. In brief, choice of three roads before her, -theft, dismost of her ten shillings remained in the honor, or suicide. If she takes to the first possession of Butts, who, still suspicious, road, Butts will be there under the cost of a tied up her purchases in a parcel, and, when policeman, and with bandcuffs in his pocket. she had left his shop, ejaculated, "I don't If she selects the second course, Butts will much like the look of her."

We learned all this a few weeks afterwards she flings herself into the sea, we shall when Halsey and the other three of us have Butts wanting to bury her in the

had come up from Oxford to read at Sand- felons' corner of the churchyard, with a verbeach during the long vacation. Halsey diet of self-murder. Isn't that about it, had just taken his degree, and was going to Butta?"

study for the bar : Merry, Clowes, and myself Butts, who was quite impenetrable to the were still undergraduates but preparing for the notion that anybody should think of poking Honor Schools next term; and we had pitch- irony at him, did not seize a word of this, ed upon Sandbeach as the quietest place on and answered complacently, "They're silly the map. It was not so quiet, however, but daubs; aren't they?"

that we soon found people made plenty of "Nevertheless, I shall buy them, Butts," noise there about their neighbors' concerns; answered Halsey. "What is their price?" and it must have been on the very morning "Oh!" said Butts, who would have smilafter our arrival, that we were informed by ed had nature endowed him with a capacity our landlady of this sigularly beautiful and for doing so, "sixpence apiece would be a odd girl who had come to Sandbeach, hoping deal of money for such things as them, I to find a situation "without references, just should say."

as if she thought all the people in these parts "How do you rate the worth of labor, were mad-folk, gentlemen!" In the course Butts?" muttered Halsey, still considering of a week, having become intimate with the sketches. "Each of these drawings must Butts, he treated us to further details; have taken a day and a half to execute. though we had not asked him to do so. But Supposing anybody were to set you working he was full of his subject, and so were all for a day and a half, then give you sixpence, the other Sandboachers; this event being the and call it a deal of money?"

nearest approach to a scandal with which the "The wages of a male artisan average between town had ever been favored. It seemed three shillings a day and ten; those of a that two families had answered Miss Child's woman between ninepence and five shillings," advertisement; but they had been able to elic- replied Butts, who always took questions it nothing satisfactory as to her antecedents, gravely.

and so, of course, had receded, All Miss "And it must be skilled labor to earn the Child would say, was, that her mother was money," took up Clowes, who, although an dead, and that she had never known her faexcellent fellow, was for uprooting sentimenther, who had deserted her mother years ago. talism. "Don't let us have any paradoxes, At first her mother had seemed in easy cir- Halsey. You pay work if it's good : if not, cumstances; afterwards they had become you give nothing."

very poor, and had been obliged to work "That's your theory, Clowes; but suppos with their needles for their living. How ing we generalized it, and paid professional long was it since her mother had died ? Six men only for the good work they did : what would become of most povelists barristers. years. And what had she-Miss Child-done since? Worked. Where? This she refused to say; and cabinet ministers, to say nothing of the and she would neither state where her mother clergy? I'll rate the drawings according to had lived, nor how it came that she herself, their industry, and according to my own means, after being reduced to live by needlework, at seven-and-six each, Butts; or let us say a was suddenly in a position to apply for a fiver for the lot;" and, putting the unknown place as governess. To the last inquiry, girl's pictures together, Arthur Halsey handshe had simply answered that she had met od the Sandbeach censor a banknote.

with some people "who had been good to I suppose the money could not have lain ten seconds in Butts's hesitating palm, when All this was extremely suspicious. Butts | the shop-door turned, and admitted a girl, at appeared to consider it a premeditated affront | whose sight Merry, Clowes, and I, who had upon Sandbeach, that any one should come begun to banter Halsey on his Quixotism, inthere not prepared to give the fullest account, stantly lapsed silent; for it needed no one in print if need were, of his or her life from to tell us that here was the very person we birthday upwards. He doubted whether he were discussing,-come as if to speak mutewondered how a name of such sadness could was justified in letting her subscribe to his ly for herself, as to her deserts, her sadness library, and take home books which would and her destitution. She was surprisingly afterwards pass into the immacculate hands lovely, but pale; and her beauty was of that in love with her, raved that the name was of visitors baving references. To be sure frail, infant-like sort, which has astonished the softest he had ever heard, and that it she soldom came now to his reading-room to eyes, deep and mysterious as velvet, the tinwas just such a one as he would have chosen look at The Times' advertisements as she lest of mouths, and timid candor spread over to distinguish her from other women, she be- had done at first. The lady-subscribers had all the features like a bloom. There was stared her out of countenance, observed a chil- nothing in her dress to mark absolute penling silence in her presence, drawn their skirts | ury : only her ways displayed some of that hastily away to avoid her contact as she pass- weariness which resulted from the struggle that meditative ecstasy used by certain art- ed, and done other things that were most against a current too strong, for her young natural and proper under the circumstances. arms.

But now and then she would come to bring She colored as she entered, but less be back books, and borrow others; and a few cause of us than because of two smart young mire every one of its glittering facets. Men days ago, added Butts, she had glided in ladies-Miss Ida and Miss Ada Wilkinstimidly at nightfall, and brought him a dozen who had come in with her. They somehow But Halsey was not; for we all of us knew water-color sketches, asking him whether he generally contrived to be at Butts's, these the object of his praise, and thought as well saw any hope of selling them. He had kept pretty and proper Misses Wilkins, at the of her as he did. If the truth must be told, the sketches out of curiosity, and shown them hour when Merry and Clowes were there; the fact that he had been the first to declare to some of his lady-subscribers, who had and, virtue-like, they forthwith began to stare his love, and the evident strength of her been much amused at the girl's impuder e. at the strange girl in black, whose name

her a passion deep as his own. It is not so, even had the chance occurred; for one Mara Child laid some books on the couneven so sure that we had escaped her influ- should never encourage people whom one ter, and began to speak in a low tone to ence; and may be each of us reflected in se- does not know. This is what Butts said. Butts. But Butts, amongst his other qualicret how much lighter the journey of life We were lounging over the counter, cutting the leaves of new magazines, skimming through the papers and inspecting the libra- ity, the girl was obliged to raise her voice so that we all heard what she said.

"Let us see the sketches, Butts," asked | "I have brought back these books," she Halsey, who, like the rest of us, had, from faltered; "and-and-as it is the end of spectability,-and to reguery, too, for that the outset of his acquaintanceship with the the month, Mr. Butts, I don't think I shall matter,-references. She had arrived one Sandbeach magnate, discarded the name renew my subscription. And please would you insert this twice in the Sandbeach Ga-"As the women are making such a dead zette?" (She was crimson by this time, set at the girl, it is obvious she is pretty," and drew a slip of paper, with a half-crown, from her pocket.) "It is another advertise

Butts being a simpleton in all things, small and had asked Butts, in person, whether he our friend Butts talks so lightly of the as well as great, unfolded the paper, scrutisketches, there must be somemerit in them." nized it as if it were a passport, and read its But no : there was no merit in them contents pompously aloud : "Wanted, some sort. Besides circulating books, he was whatever, except such as comes from patient work by a needlewoman who can embroider house-agent and proprietor of the Sandbeach work misapplied. Butts, who was quite and make dresses. The advertiser would Gazette. This three-handed title allowed impervious to sarcasm from not understand- work cheaply, and as many hours a day as him to keep a finger in the piex of almost all ing what it meant, produced the sketches desired. Address: M. C., Circulating Li-

The Misses Wilkins tittered, and from ed to him. He were a velvet skull-cap, had were views of Sandbeach and neighborhood, that unlucky moment were banished forever bly meant no harm, though he occasionally played only the most elementary knowl. ry. Halsey had covered his sketches with a did some. "You have held a governess's sit- edge of coloring. Poor, simple drawings newspaper, and pretended to be examining uation before, ! suppose?" was his magiste- they were, with dabs of blue for sky, an album; but his eyes, glancing over its ing the Misses Wilkins tinkle out their scorn, he reddened as if he had been struck.

Butts had heard the titter; and he an them, and no more. Clowes, who was a bit swered with a frown, "Oh, no! I cannot let any more letters be addressed to you here. You must have them sent to your lodgings. and give you a character?" Butts looked stead of instructing them to bake and spin. But" (and it was evident these words cost at her as his plump fingers unstrung a par- But Haisey collected the sketches, and, after him an effort, as if he were being constrainhas just bought all your drawings.

Butts did not say which gentleman; but I remember, as if it were to-day, her turning round with the note in her hands and looking at us. She gazed first at me, then manly sympathy for all that was weak and her eyes rested upon Halsey; and such an expression of wistful gratitude rose to her face, that, if I had been in Halsey's place, teach her poor scraps of knowledge, and be- I should have fancied she was speaking to me, and I should have answered her. But Halsey did not speak ; nor did she. He thanks were all given with the eyes; and the reply to the thanks was conveyed in the same manner, that is at one giance.

(Continued next week.) Official. LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED AT THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE UM CONGRESS. (GENERAL NATURE-No. 58.) or wisconsin at as troose, by on the third Tuesday of September of each year, instant of the first Monday of December, as now provided by law; and that the December term at La Crosse be, and the same is hereby, abolished, and that all recognizances, indistinct, writs, processes, and other proceedings, civil and criminal, now pending in either of said courts, may be entered, heard, and tried at the time herein fixed for holding said courts. Provides, knesser, That a term of said court may be held in December, eightless handred and seventy-two, for the purpose of taking forfestures of recognizances and disposing of any and all matters, pending in said court, civil or criminal, necessary to be disposed of at said term to prevent discontinuance or any loss of any rights that may have accrucial to any party or to the government of the United States.

See, 9. This set shall not interfere with the term of said courts appointed to be holden at Madison, in said district, nor with the power new possesser, by the judges provided by law.

rovided by law, Approved, May 9, 1872, [GENERAL NATURE-No. 55.] AN ACT to extend the time of payment for their lands by persons holding pre-emptions on the public lands

in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and Territory of Dakota.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assumbled, That all persons bolding pre-emptions upon any of the public lands of the United States within the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and Territory of Dakota, whose final payment has not been made, shall be allowed the additional time of one year in which to make final proof and payment from the time at which such pre-emptions are required to be paid for by the present laws.

Approved, May 9, 1872.

AN ACT for the relief of purchasers of lands sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary states.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no owner, his heirs or assigns, of any said sold for taxes under the previsions of the act milited "An act for the collection of direct taxes in the nurrectionary districts within the United States, and for other purposes," approved June seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the acts amendatory thereof, shall be permitted to receiver the same in any action or proceeding against the purchaser at such sale, his heirs, or assigns, without showing, in addition to other necessary facts, that all taxes, costs, and penalties due upon the sale land, at the time of saic, have been paid by him or them, or bringing into court and depositing with the clerk, for the use of the duited States, the amount, with literest, of the taxes and penalties due to the United States on account of the land when sols, together with all the costs and expenses of the saic, which saim, in case of the receivery of the land by such owner, his heirs or assigns, shall be paid by the clerk into the treasury of the United States.

Buc, 2. That in all cases where the owner of any land sold for taxes as aforesaid, his beirs or assigns, shall receive the same from the purchaser, his heirs or actigns, without collusion on his or their part, by the hadgment of any United States court, by reason of a failure, without his or their faults or neglect, of the title of the purchaser derived from said sale, the Secretary of the learts, of the money deposited with him as aforesaid, and on being satisfied that any purchaser. his heirs or assigns, without collusion in the or their faulty purchaser. his heirs or assigns, without his or their faulty purchaser. In the imanner before mentioned, is hereby authorized, out of any money in the trasaury not otherwise appropriated, to repay the person or persons entitled thereto a sum of money equal t [GRNERAL NATURE-No. 60.]

[GRNERAL NATURE-No. 61.] AN ACT to perpetuate testimony in the couris of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter all depositions taken do bene see, to be used in any civil cause depending in any court in any district of the United States, for the causes and before the officers mantiened in section thirty of the "Ant to establish the judicial courts of the United States," approved September twenty-fourth, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, shall be taken upon reason-hundred the taken in the second to the capture of the states of the witness and the time and place of the taking of his deposition, to the opposite of the taking of his deposition; and in all cases in rem, the person having the agency or possession of the property at the time of seizure shall be deemed the adverse party, until a claim shall have been put in, and whenever, by reason of the absence from the district and want of an attorney of record or other reason, the giving of the notice herein required shall be impracticable it shall be lawful to take such depositions as there shall be urrent necessity for taking upon such notice as any judge authorized to hold courts in such dreuit or district shall bink reasonable, and direct. But this set shall be the testimony to be taken under commission, according to the course of the common law, to be used therein. AN ACT to perpetuate testimony in the courts of the

in mission, see the seed therein.

be used therein.
Approved, May 9, 1872.
GENERAL NATURE—No. 62.]

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F. F. Fletcher.

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WOULD CALL THE ATTENTION of the public

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